

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria, USSR
SUBJECT Industrial Guards in Zistersdorf
Oil Fields

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1. Strength

The Werkchutz, or industrial guard, in the Soviet-controlled Zistersdorf oil fields totals 840 men. Although the guard unit for the entire Zistersdorf area has a unified command, for the purpose of guarding individual installations it is divided into groups of from 30 to 60 men, parcelled out to the different firms.

2. Arms and Equipment

At present this is about one weapon for every fourth man. Weapons consist of 90 machine pistols of Soviet and German manufacture, 100 carbines, and 30 pistols. These weapons are passed from the sentries on duty to the relief detail at the end of each tour of duty. The men wear black uniforms and visored caps, without insignia. Each shift is made up of about 10 men. The leader of each shift is armed with a pistol, 8 men with carbines, and 1 man with a machine pistol. Nothing has been learned of ammunition supply.

3. Composition

All members of the Werkchutz are Austrians, of whom about 90% are Communist Party members. The remaining 10% are Socialists, non-party men, and opportunists who participate only because of the good pay. members of the Werkchutz that, in case of real trouble, as many as 30% of Werkchutz members would prove unreliable.

4. Payment

Rank and file members of the Werkchutz receive 700-800 schillings per month, while shift leaders get from 1000-1200 schillings. Length of service and service record determine the exact amount of each man's salary within these limits. In addition the men may receive additional food and clothing rations and meals in the company kitchens at reduced prices. Although the men are outfitted and paid directly by the Oil Staff, money for salaries and equipment

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comes from funds put up by the individual firms.

5. Leadership

The commander of the entire Werkschutz for the Zisterdorf area is the Soviet Captain Polakoy, who speaks fluent German and who tries to make himself inconspicuous.

6. Background

The founder of these industrial guards is an Austrian who fought during the war as a Yugoslav partisan. After 1945, holding the rank of major, he was entrusted with the organization of the Werkschutz in Zisterdorf. He was always accompanied by a first lieutenant who had also served as a partisan fighter in Yugoslavia. It is reported that these two men are no longer active in Zisterdorf, but are engaged in work of an unreported nature for the Soviets in Mistelbach, Lower Austria. Their names have not yet been reported.

7. General

There has been no appreciable change in the size of the Werkschutz in the past few months. The usual employment turnover appears to occur for the usual reasons - voluntary separation, illness, or dismissal. So far as can be observed, the Werkschutz engages in no activities other than the patrolling of oil field installations, the examining of papers of persons arriving in the area, and the execution of general security duties. [REDACTED] Comment: If secretly-armed shock troops are actually being created within the individual Soviet-controlled companies, this is probably taking place through Communist Party machinery. Such a development has not yet been observed in this area.)

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